

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-05 /092 W
----- 066740

R 130640Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7954

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY POR LOUIS

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 0222

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, CN, MA

SUBJECT: ROVING COMORIAN AMBASSADOR VISITS MADAGASCAR;
MADAGASCAR CLAIMS SOVEREIGNTY OVER JUAN NOVA

1. GDRM PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA MET FEB. 7 WITH ROVING COMORIAN AMBASSADOR ABOUDOU BOANA DURING LATTER'S WEEK-LONG VISIT TO MADAGASCAR. BOANA MET MET EARLIER WITH FONMIN BEMANANJARA. HIS CURRENT ITINERARY, ACCORDING TO PRESS, ALSO INCLUDES MAURITIUS AND TANZANIA.

2. MADAGASCAR MATIN REPORTED THAT BOANA WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH HIS CALL ON RATSIRAKA WHICH COVERED QUESTION OF COOPERATION IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. BOANA ALSO DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM "COMRADE SOILIH, PRESIDENT OF THE COMOROS"; PART OF WHICH FOLLOWS: "MADAGASCAR AND THE COMOROS ARE COUNTRIES WHOSE DESTINIES HAVE CONVERGED. WE ARE NOT ONLY TWO COUNTRIES BUT TWO BROTHERS. IT IS A MATTER OF HARMONIZING OUR ACTIVITIES AND OF COORDINATING WHAT WE DO AND WHAT WE UNDERTAKE." BOANA ALSO HAD A FEW CHOICE WORDS FOR THE FRENCH BUT NONETHELESS APPEARED TO BE CONCILIATORY.

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3. ON FEB 9, DURING HIS FORMAL STATEMENT AT PRESENTA-

TION OF CREDENTIALS BY NEW ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, RATSIRAKA LAID CLAIM ON BEHALF OF MADAGASCAR TO JUAN DE NOVA, TINY ISLAND 90 MILES OFF WEST COAST IN MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL. ISLAND IS ADMINISTERED BY FRANCE FROM REUNION AND HAS POPULATION OF ABOUT 40, ALL IMPORTED WORKERS FOR FRENCH PHOSPHATE PRODUCING COMPANY.

4. THEN ON FEB 11, "MADAGASCAR MATIN" PUBLISHED TELEGRAM RATSIRAKA SENT TO UNSYG DEPLORING FRENCH ROLE IN "BALKANIZATION" OF THE COMOROS AND, FOR GOOD MEASURE, CLAIMING UNSPECIFIED SMALL ISLANDS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN INCLUDING (SIC) JUAN DE NOVA. FOLLOWING IS PERTINENT PART OF TELEGRAM: "...THE MALAGASY PEOPLE CONSIDER THEIR INDEPENDENCE TO BE INCOMPLETE SO LONG AS CERTAIN PARCELS OF AFRICAN TERRITORY REMAIN UNDER FOREIGN DOMINATION. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE NEVER RENOUNCED OUR RIGHTS TO THE SMALL ISLANDS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN INCLUDING JUAN DE NOVA WHICH HISTORICALLY, GEOGRAPHICALLY AND LEGALLY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF MALAGASY NATIONAL TERRITORY."

5. COMMENT: WHAT RATSIRAKA INTENDS TO DO FURTHER ABOUT JUAN DE NOVA IS ANYBODY'S GUESS - IF ANYBODY HERE CARES. SHEINBAUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TANANA00222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760055-0331
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760248/aaaabqfh.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: housmasa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by housmasa>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROVING COMORIAN AMBASSADOR VISITS MADAGASCAR; MADAGASCAR CLAIMS SOVEREIGNTY OVER JUAN NOVA
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, OVIP, CN, MA, (RATSIRAKA, DIDIER), (BOANA, ABOUDOU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006